

1941

The story of juvenile delinquency in the City of Hartford, Connecticut.

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THE STORY OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY
IN THE CITY OF HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

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The Story Of Juvenile Delinquency In The City Of
Hartford, Connecticut.

By

Thomas J. McDonough

Problem Submitted As Partial Fulfillment For The
Degree Of Master Of Science

Massachusetts State College, Amherst, Massachusetts.

April 10, 1941.

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Section 1

Statement and Explanation of Juvenile Delinquency.

Juvenile Delinquency has often been defined as the commission by a child under the age of sixteen of an offense, which if committed by an older person would constitute a crime under the existing laws. But this definition does not include the various types of cases which come under the heading of Juvenile Delinquency. Any action or behavior on the part of any child which has a tendency to endanger his physical or moral well-being might be classed under the foregoing heading.

A delinquent child may be defined as

- (1) A child who has violated a state law or any regulation or ordinance of a subdivision of the state.
- (2) An habitual truant from school.
- (3) A child who is habitually disobedient to his parent, relative or guardian.
- (4) One who deports himself in a manner to endanger the morals of himself and others.

It is an established fact that crime has its roots in Juvenile Delinquency. It therefore becomes of major importance that we use every method within our means to destroy these roots by preventing and checking Juvenile Delinquency. Crime pre-

vention is much less expensive and more far reaching than law enforcement and punishment will ever be. We should do all in our power to correct the disorders which are responsible for these crimes against society and should aim to bring about more wholesome adjustments in children so that their lives will be happier and more useful to the other members of society.

Section 2

Causes of Juvenile Delinquency.

In the recent words of a recognized authority on childhood¹ "barring the small number of grossly defective and handicapped infants, every child at birth as far as the brain is concerned is potentially a normal person and so far as its mental attainments and its character are concerned, the child's predestination will depend chiefly upon the parents' ability or willingness to make the best of natures' offering."

Environment plays an important part in developing delinquency but probably the greatest single cause is the breakdown of the home. When one considers that a great many serious crimes are committed by young people under sixteen, it is safe to assume that a general breakdown of the home was responsible for the conditions which brought about the opportunities which resulted in the commission of these crimes.

There is at the present time a decided lack of parental supervision and responsibility; a lack of proper understanding between parents and children; the passing of the real home where children could bring their friends and there be subject to the right kind of discipline; religious training is unfortunately absent in many of the homes; too much spending

¹ Sachs, Dr. Bernard, Keep Your Child Normal, New York, 1936.

money is given to too many of our children; children are too amusement-minded and are allowed to see pictures that are not fit for their years; and too many children lack parental supervision chiefly because both parents are working and the mother is not in the home when these young people arrive home from school thus forcing them into the streets and into bad companionships.

It is never easy to explain why certain children abandon normal standards and go wrong but the influence of the home which comes under the heading of environment, is usually found to be the direct cause for a great many of the cases known as Juvenile Delinquency. Some, of course, will naturally be classed under the heading of personal defect while others will be caused by a combination of environmental conditions and personal defects.

Juvenile delinquents in Hartford may be divided into several groups. In the first group we have the sex delinquent who becomes this type of problem when he begins to feel his oats. There is evidence of low mentality among this group and they appear to run away from disagreeable things in their own daily lives and become very much opposed to law. It begins with ordinary truancy, develops into the prolonged type which results in their fear to return home. When hunger

gnaws at their vitals they steal food. Success of this sort encourages stealing on a larger scale and next we find them taking money in order to attend shows. Sometimes they steal articles from automobiles and stores and sell them in order to raise money for their forms of amusement. Most delinquents are found among this type.

Sometimes we come in contact with children of better mentality than the lowest who are given to insolence, bad manners, insubordination and bad language. Training for them along spiritual and moral lines has been neglected. Their will power, reasoning, judgment and understanding ^{are} is not developed to the extent that their state of living calls for and we find the male members searching out for the females of their own level. This group is led on by the more adventuresome type.

The second group contains the individuals with perverted minds. This condition could have been avoided if the people responsible for their training had not muffed their opportunities. Through neglect they have reached this most serious stage and are certain to pervert the weaker individuals with whom they come in contact.

The third group seem to map out their plans on a more or less clever basis. They specialize in particular types of thefts.

They know that a large number of women visit churches at all times and have a trusting habit of placing their handbags on the backs of the seats. This situation provides an excellent opportunity for these delinquents to steal these handbags without being seen and a great deal of easy money is obtained in this way.

A number of these children have rather high I.Q's yet they are thieves and are often able to get away with their performances over an extended period of time.

The group that resorts to breaking and entering are usually the result of broken homes. The super normal type in this group usually acts as a sort of lookout and uses other boys of lower mentality to assist him in his work. He sometimes becomes a gang leader. The ages of these boys varies between fourteen and sixteen.

The girls in this group usually become sex-problems. We find them being drawn to boys on dates and from these beginnings serious consequences develop.

The fourth group represents a variety of cases. One branch comes from homes where there are two fires burning at each end of the home. The home is divided against itself as a result of quarrels, bickerings, and no parent appears to assume any responsibility toward the children. Offspring from this sort

of a union are driven to the streets and bad companionships for consolation.

Another type shows a father who leaves everything to his wife. "I never interfere in the bringing up of the children" is his usual sally. If the mother does not possess the necessary qualities for leadership then the child is usually spoiled, has plenty of spending money, spends much of his time outside the home, is quick to take a dare and usually winds up with disastrous results.

Another type of father struggles to make both ends meet. He sometimes works both day and night and hardly ever sees his children. The mother, a hard working woman, sincere and honest, finds the rearing of a large family too much for her. Some of them usually find their way to the Juvenile Court.

Some fathers who have received a very fine education themselves have been thwarted in their ambitions and take to feeling sorry for themselves, neglect their family, lose interest in it and are frequently snapped back into reality by being summoned to headquarters when their children get into difficulties.

Some educated parents believe that they can rear their children according to the theory set forth in certain books on

Psychology. They find out too late that a great deal of this theory may sound interesting in books but it loses its effectiveness when transferred into practice. This type is fortunately rare but children from this type of union often get mixed up with the law.

The greatest single cause of delinquency is a broken home.² This does not necessarily mean that all delinquents come from broken homes, or from poverty-stricken, filthy and immoral homes. Often the material aspects are splendid and the first inkling that the parents have of any delinquency on the part of their children is when some outsider or government official calls it to their attention. Maladjustment is responsible in a number of cases but where we have evidence of the broken home, we know definitely that supervision and training is absent and it is impossible to believe that children who are forced out of the home to find their pleasures in the street will be able to resist temptation and stifle their desires. If we remove the cause we can prevent the effect.

²

Fox, Dr. M.D., Report of the Juvenile Court for the City of Hartford, Conn. 1939-40.

Section 3

Areas where Delinquency is Most Prevalent in Hartford.

While it is true that delinquency is found in every part of Hartford, nevertheless the greatest numbers of cases come from certain centers such as the section of the city including Portland, Windsor, Pleasant, Pequot Streets and extending to Bellevue and Wooster Streets in the north end; the section east of Main Street including Governor, Woodbridge and South Prospect Streets and crossing Main Street to include John Street; and the third center is known as the Lawrence Street section, including parts of Broad and Park Streets.³

The former section (see Map on page 21) contains most of the heavy negro population of which Hartford has approximately 10,000. Through no fault of their own they have been forced to live in this area due to the fact that their economic opportunities are decidedly below those of their white brethren. Here in this area we find the greatest congestion with many people often living in small quarters. This naturally is not conducive to good living conditions.

The first two areas constitute the slum areas and Hartford ~~must~~ take⁶ its place along with other cities in possessing many hovels within its city limits. Very little has been done in the
³ MacPherson, Helen S., Report of Juvenile Court of Hartford, Conn. 1932-33.

past to improve these areas and vice and crime have been most prevalent in these sections. A great many people from other States have come to Hartford to join their relatives knowing that the City does more than others to take care of its shiftless and indigent people. As a result we find the properties in these sections overcrowded and detrimental to the welfare of the people throughout the city. It is no wonder that we have so much Juvenile Delinquency in these areas for they are breeding places for crime and corruption.

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JUVENILE COURT DELINQUENCY CASES 1931-32

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept. Oct.	Nov. Dec.	Total											
	B G	B G	B G	B G	B G	B G	B G	B G	B G	B G	B G											
Auto Stealing	2	1	1	3	2		3	1	1		14											
Unlawful Entry	9	6	2	1	1	6	5	5	16	5	56											
Holdup																						
Other Stealing	16	25	4	12	1	17	16	5	15	23	1	139	19									
Truancy	1	3		1	2	3	1	2	4	2	6	1	23	3								
Running Away	1	4		1	1	1	2	1	3	2	1	13	5	12	2	51	13					
Ungovernable	2		1	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	17	11							
Sex Offense	1	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	4	1	11	12							
Injury to Person	3				3	4	1	2	1	4	1	9	26	2								
Act of Mischief	13	17	24	1	52	36	30	22	47	41	7	16	1	273	9							
Traffic Violation																						
Use or Possession of Drugs & Liquor																						
Other Reason	1								1													
Total Delin- quency Cases	48	5	57	6	43	4	53	4	66	3	74	9	54	3	87	7	102	21	77	8	666	70

SOME STATISTICS

1931-32

Cases investigated before disposition	736
Cases disposed	736
Supervised on probation	391
Visits	3,168

Committed:

Connecticut School for Boys	16
Long Lane Farm	9

JUVENILE COURT DELINQUENCY CASES 1932-33

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept. Oct.	Nov. Dec.	Total										
	B G	B G	B G	B G	B G	B G	B G	B G	B G	B G											
Auto Stealing		1							2	5	8										
Unlawful Entry	5	6	4		2		2		9	6	34										
Holdup																					
Other Stealing	17	6	17	12	15	14	13	12	22	1 23	155										
Truancy	5	1	2	1	4	2	1	1	2	3 7	36										
Running Away	6	2	1	9	1	2	2	2	12	1 4	43										
Ungovernable	1	3	1	2	2	1	1	1	6	2 1 4	34										
Sex Offense	2	2		1	1	1	2	3	1	1 8	26										
Injury to Person	3	1	1	1			1	4	10	1	36										
Act of Mischief	11	24	5	7	24	41	20	2	80	4 78	299										
Traffic Violation					1	1	1				3										
Use or Possession of Drugs & Liquor	1										1										
Other Reason	3	1	3	1	3					1	12										
Total	52	7	48	4	42	3	23	3	54	5	61	4	43	8	33	1	144	19	127	7	667

SOME STATISTICS

1932-33

Delinquency cases investigated before	687
Delinquency cases disposed	687
Delinquency cases supervised on probation . . .	184
Delinquents committed:	
Connecticut School for Boys	15
Long Lane Farm	9

JUVENILE COURT DELINQUENCY CASES 1933--34

	Jan. B G	Feb. B G	Mar. B G	Apr. B G	May B G	June B G	July B G	Aug. B G	Sept. Oct. B G	Nov. Dec. B G	Total
Auto Stealing		1									1
Unlawful Entry	9	3	1	3 1	21 1		4	10	3	8	64
Holdup				1							1
Other Stealing	11 1	10 1	2 1	16 1	10	10	8	17	20 4	15 3	130
Truancy	4 1	1	2 2	6 3	1	3 1	1		3 1	9	38
Running Away	1	3 1	8 2	5 1	4	1		3	5 1	6 2	43
Ungovernable	1 1	8 3	4	7 1	3 1	1	4	3	7 3	6 3	56
Sex Offense		1	3	3	3	2	1 1		5 7	3 4	33
Injury to person				1	1	1		1	2 1	1	8
Act of Mischief	4	3	6	22	11		33	45	112 1	24	261
Other Reason	2				1	1	4				8
Total Delin-											
quency Cases	32 3	30 5	26 5	60 11	51 6	16	4 55	1 79	157 18	72 12	643

SOME STATISTICS

1933-34

Delinquency cases investigated before disposition	643
Delinquency cases disposed after investigation	643
Official	279
Unofficial	364
Delinquency cases supervised on probation	164
Neglected and uncared-for cases investigated before disposition	193
Neglected and uncared-for-children committed to County Homes	63
Neglected and uncared-for children committed to the Bureau of Child Welfare . . .	62
Neglected and uncared-for children committed to relatives or private agencies . .	41
Neglected and uncared-for children committed in their own home after supervision . .	27
Number of visits	3136

Juvenile Court Statistics 1937-38

Reasons for Referral of Delinquents	Number		
	Boys	Girls	Total
Auto Stealing	18		18
Unlawful Entry	23		23
Other Stealing	120	7	127
Truancy	32	9	41
Running Away	14	1	15
Ungovernable	19	4	23
Sex Offense	11	10	21
Injury to Person	13		13
Act of Mischief	<u>227</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>231</u>
	477	35	512
Other Referrals	Boys Girls Total		
	Boys	Girls	Total
Uncared-for	62	39	101
Neglected	<u>53</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>106</u>
	115	92	207
Dispositions	Boys Girls Total		
	Boys	Girls	Total
Delinquents dismissed unofficially	316	17	333
Delinquents dismissed officially by Judge	36	3	39
Delinquents placed on probation	75	11	86
Delinquents committed to Correctional Schools	13	4	17
Delinquents placed in Foster Homes	4	2	6
Delinquents placed at Junior Republic	1		1

	Boys	Girls	Total
Neglected and uncared-for under six committed to Commissioner of Welfare for foster home care			57
Neglected and uncared-for under six committed to private agencies for foster home care			4
Neglected and uncared-for under six committed to individuals			0
Neglected and uncared-for between six and sixteen committed to County Commissioner			78
Neglected and uncared-for between six and sixteen committed to private agencies for foster home care			13
Neglected and uncared-for between six and sixteen committed to indi- viduals			3
Income for board of out-of-town children in Children's Building (deposited in City Treasury)			\$ 378.57
State Mittimus costs(deposited in City Treasury)			\$1504.28

JUVENILE COURT STATISTICS 1939 - 40

Reasons For Referral Of Delinquents	Boys	Girls	Total
Automobile Thefts	39	1	40
Breaking and entering of homes, and public buildings	64	0	64
Other forms of thefts	150	22	172
Truancy	48	36	84
Running away	6	6	12
Sex Offenses	13	22	35
Disturbing the peace	49	5	54
Destruction of property and other mischief making	123	3	126
Other Referrals			
Uncared-for children)	70	63	133
Neglected children)			
Dispositions			
Delinquents passed on by the Court	140	20	160
Delinquents adjusted outside of Court	352	73	425
Delinquents whose cases were dismissed by the Court	13	2	15
Delinquents placed on probation	99	10	109
Children who adjusted while on probation	71	17	88
Children who failed to adjust while on probation	14	3	17
Delinquents committed to correctional schools	19	8	27

	Boys	Girls	Total
Children returned to Court two or more times	19	0	19
Children placed in foster homes . .	4	0	4
Children placed at Junior Republic	5	0	5
Neglected children under six committed to Commissioner of Welfare	17	16	33
Neglected children committed to private agencies for foster home care	8	6	14
Neglected and uncared-for children between six and sixteen committed to County Commissioner	44	32	76
Children given in custody to relatives	20	21	41
Children who in previous years were committed to the care of child-caring institutions and whose committment was revoked by the Court and returned to parents	20	26	46

Income for board of out-of-town children
in Children's Building (deposited in
City Treasury).

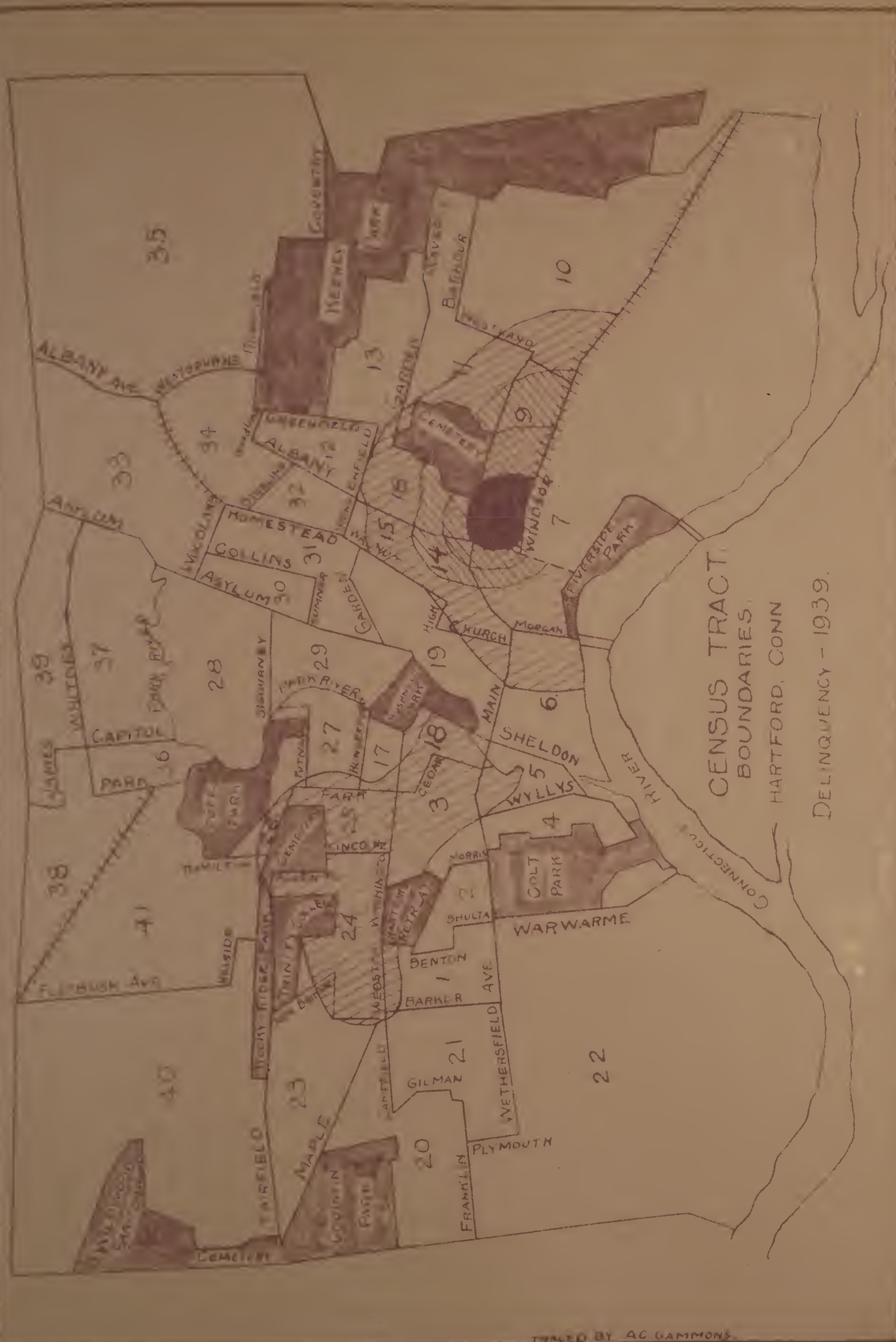
\$266.00

State Mittimus costs (deposited in
City Treasury)

2464.64

Collected in payment of orders
imposed by Juvenile Court for support
of children committed to care of State
(deposited with Commissioner of Welfare)

1961.60



TRACED BY AC GAMMONS

ISOMETRIC DISTRIBUTION
REGISTRATIONS IN SOCIAL SERVICE EXCHANGE BY
AGENCIES DEALING WITH DELINQUENCY EXPRESSED
AS A RATE PER SQUARE MILE.

MORE THAN 400 PER SQUARE MILE
300 - 400 PER
200 - 300
100 - 00

CENSUS TRACT
BOUNDARIES
HARTFORD, CONN
DELINQUENCY - 1939.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
ATTENDANCE OFFICERS CALLS
SEPT. 1936 TO MAR. 1937
● = 6 CALLS
○ = 1 TO 6 CALLS

**PLAN OF
THE CITY OF HARTFORD
FOR
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

SCALE 1 in = 800 ft.



REPORT OF ATTENDANCE OFFICERS CALLS FROM SEPTEMBER 1935 TO JUNE 1936, BY REASONS.

Reason for Absence	Bradley	Dunn	Muzio	Shea	Wittel	Total
Children kept home by parents	8	109	303	252	84	756
Children kept home by illness	21	598	1386	1155	623	3783
Board of Health Suspensions		4	2	2	2	10
Residence not found	1	49	69	30	30	179
Non-Attendants placed in school	1	187	299	212	200	899
Employed contrary to law		2	2		10	14
Truants returned to school	2	155	204	223	166	750
Without suitable clothing	2	12	92	38	14	158
Left school, over 16	1	115	164	59	149	488
Tardy		19	47	66	20	152
Doing errands for parents		6	20	20	10	56
In Court as witness		3	4	3	4	14
Reported to Juvenile Court		3	4	3	10	20
Stayed out to work		31	30	26	15	102
Checking addresses		9	31	46	57	143

Reason for Absence	Bradley	Dunn	Muzio	Shea	Wittel	Total
Checking non-cert. pupils		65	4	23	40	132
Moved out of town		34	63	29	52	178
Working certificates		6	8	1	16	31
Married			4			4
Deceased					1	1
Interviewing parents	5	49	41	37	90	222
Checking immigrants	2					2
Family moving		12	39	8	11	70
Jewish Holiday		2				2
Calling for school books		7	13	7	10	37
In Juvenile Court		3	30	9	7	49
Sent to Meriden School		1			2	3
Suspended		1	2		2	5
Innoculation		17	22	14	7	60
National Guard duty		4	4	4	14	26
Checking Flood refugees		5	31	7	7	50
Reported absent by mistake			6	2	1	9

Reason for Absence	Bradley	Dunn	Muzio	Shea	Wittel	Total
Disappeared from home		1	1	5	8	14
Entered C.C.C. Camp				1	4	5
Total	43	1508	2925	2282	1666	8424

CALLS MADE BY ATTENDANCE OFFICERS FROM SEPT. 1936 TO JUNE 1937, BY REASONS.

Reasons	Bradley	Dunn	Muzio	Shea	Wittel	Total
Kept home by illness	11	641	1061	1458	945	4116
Assisting parents	1	106	274	324	140	845
Truants	2	209	201	325	215	952
Reached age 16 - left	1	82	98	116	147	444
Moved out of town		25	35	47	53	160
Without suitable clothing		17	63	68	17	165
Stayed out to work		14	10	49	9	82
In Juvenile Court		3	9	9	8	29
Working certificates verified		11	6	1		18
Employed contrary to law, placed in school		5	10	13	7	35
In Court as witness		2		2	3	7
Disappeared from home		2	2		1	5
Suspended by Board of Health		3	4	5	3	15
Suspended by School Authorities		1	1	8	1	11
Entered CCC Camp		2	3	1	3	9

Reasons	Bradley	Dunn	Muzio	Shea	Wittel	Total
Married			3	1	2	6
Sent to Meriden School			1	2	1	4
Verification of Religious Holidays		1	17	19	4	41
<u>Other Calls Made</u>						
Non-attendants placed in school	1	158	316	260	158	893
To check residence		44	68	84	58	254
Interviewing parents concerning children	1	71	74	112	81	339
Tardy		5	10	38	4	57
Checking non-cert. 8th grade pupils who did not return to school		53	18	30	80	181
Calling for school books		1	7	14	2	24
Reported absent-mistake by school		11	4	12	6	33
Checking immigrants for State Attendance Dept.			1	5		6
TOTALS	17	1467	2296	3003	1948	8731

CALLS MADE BY ATTENDANCE OFFICERS FROM SEPT. 1937 TO JUNE 1938, BY REASONS.

Reasons	Dunn	Muzio	Shea	Wittel	Off. Adj.	Total
Kept home by illness	769	1224	1478	848	96	4415
Kept home by parents	126	265	285	129	13	818
Truants	173	223	347	188	15	946
Reached age 16 - left	81	100	101	107	6	395
Moved out of town	23	31	35	58	12	159
Without suitable clothing	16	82	75	37	4	214
Stayed out of work	19	8	49	10	4	90
In Juvenile Court	4	3	2		13	22
Innoculation			2	1		3
Working certificates verified	8	5	3	7	1	24
Employed contrary to law, placed in school	2	5	7	5		19
In Court as witness	3	1	2	7	3	16
Disappeared from home		3	7	6		16
Suspended by Board of Health	14	11	11	5	2	43
Suspended by school authorities	1			2		3

Reasons	Dunn	Muzio	Shea	Wittel	Off. Adj.	Total
Entered C.C.C. Camp		1	2		3	6
Married		1	1			2
Sent to Meriden School	1					1
Verification of Religious holiday	3	7	2	4	1	17
Visiting Dispensary or Clinic	24	38	34	16	1	113
<u>Other Calls Made</u>						
Non-attendants placed in school	173	483	408	199	87	1350
To check residence	56	98	121	100	7	382
Interviewing parents concerning children	112	87	96	96	63	454
Tardy	1	16	20	7	1	45
Checking non-cert. 8th grade pupils who did not return to school						
Calling for school books		1	8	1		10
Reported absent, mistake by school	5	6	2	2	1	16
Checking immigrants for State Dept.						29

	Dunn	Muzio	Shea	Wittel	Off. Adj.	Total
Total Calls Made	1614	2699	3098	1835	333	9579
School days	184	184	184	184	184	184
Average per day	8.8	14.7	16.8	10.0	1.8	52.1
Percent of total	16.8	28.2	32.3	19.2	3.5	100

CALLS MADE BY ATT. OFF. FROM SEPT. 1938, TO JUNE 1939, BY REASONS, BY OFFICERS.

Reasons	Gerardi	Muzio	Shea	Wittel	Off. Adj.	Total
1 Kept home to assist parents	250	173	131	144	6	704
2 Truants	388	237	300	296	17	1238
3 Kept home by illness	1107	829	1041	886	34	4897
4 Reached 16, left to work	79	41	67	88	3	278
5 Reached 16, left to stay home	34	16	21	19		90
6 Under 16, has leaving cert.	2	3	4	10		19
7 Change of add. not reported by school	35	26	29	20		110
8 Moved out of town	20	35	42	51	3	151
9 Destitute of suitable clothing	51	77	24	37	5	194
10 Stayed out to work	41	21	26	38	2	128
11 In Juvenile Court	8	6	5	2	5	26
12 In court as a witness	2	3	2	4		11
13 Employed contrary to law, placed in school	5	6	10			21
14 Disappeared from home	2	2	6	3		13
15 Quarantined	12	4	2	6		24

Reasons	Gerardi	Muzio	Shea	Wittel	Off. Adj.	Total
16 Suspended by school authorities	6		2			8
17 Married		2				2
18 Verification of religious holiday	7	17	4	5	1	34
19 Visiting dispensary or clinic	75	75	24	32		206
20 Checking pupils who did not report at opening of school	52	16	62	76	66	272
<u>Other Reasons</u>						
1 Interviewing parents concerning children	112	76	90	116	3	397
2 Tardy	19	9	11	7		46
3 Checking families missed by enumerators	39	27	31	48	1	146
4 Overslept, stayed at home	8	28	17	11		64
5 Calling for school books	47	36	54	31	6	174
6 Reported absent, mistake by school	10	8	2	6	1	27
7 Taking Trade School Tests	11	4	8	5		28

Reasons	Gerardi	Muzio	Shea	Wittel	Off. Adj.	Total
8 Visiting out of town	38	25	33	16	1	113
9 Having trouble with eyes	21	11	24	15		71
10 Having trouble with teeth	76	52	55	38	1	222
11 Absent with consent of parents, but returned to school	68	69	69	65	6	277
12 Absence due to hurricane and flood	7	2	4			13
13 Incomplete cases, no one home	149	143	105	69		466
14 Incomplete cases, due to incorrect add.	53	26	28	31		138
Total	2834	2105	2333	2175	161	9608
School Days	184.5	184.5	184.5	184.5	184.5	184.5
Average per day	15.4	11.4	12.6	11.8	8.7	52.1
Percent of total	29.5	21.9	24.3	22.6	1.7	100

CALLS MADE BY ATTENDANCE DEPT. FROM SEPT. 1939 TO JUNE 1940, BY REASONS.

Reasons	Gerardi	Muzio	Shea	Wittel	Sub.	Off. Adj.	Total
Kept home by parents	265	287	148	125	13	12	850
Truants	356	276	196	254	12	28	1122
Kept home by illness	1422	1126	1079	853	51	58	4589
Reached 16, left to work	50	44	55	77	1	14	241
Reached 16, left to stay at home	12	10	7	12		2	43
Under 16, has leaving cert.	1	2	3	1			7
Checking addresses	28	17	32	37		7	121
Moved out of town	29	18	30	45		28	150
Without proper apparel	51	78	23	24	2	4	182
Stayed out to work	17	17	22	19		1	76
In Juvenile court	6	5	2	2		25	40
In Court as witness	4	6	6	1		1	18
Employed contrary to law, placed in school	2	1	1	2			6
Disappeared from home	2	2	2				6
Quarantined	10	14	1	7	1		33

Reasons	Gerardi	Muzio	Shea	Wittel	Sub.	Off. Adj.	Total
Suspended		1	3	2			6
Married			1	1			2
Verification of religious holiday	7	7	6	9			29
Visiting dispensary or clinic	116	131	45	39	3	5	339
Illegally absent	36	54	31	22	3	3	149
Stranded in Europe	1		1	2		1	5
<u>Other Reasons</u>							
Interviewing parents concerning children	112	58	97	144		76	487
Tardy	20	19	10	16	3	2	70
Checking families missed by enumerators	1						1
Overslept, stayed at home	18	32	16	10		3	79
Calling for school books	13	15	47	20		4	99
Reported absent, mistake by school	15	18	9	8	1	2	53
Taking trade school tests	11	5	10	12	2	1	41

Reasons	Gerardi	Muzio	Shea	Wittel	Sub.	Off. Adj.	Total
Visiting out of town	19	25	21	19		3	87
Having trouble with eyes	31	22	14	16	1	1	85
Having trouble with teeth	84	34	59	50	3	4	284
Absence due to inclement weather	20	45	5	3			73
Incomplete cases, no one home	79	97	63	45	3	11	298
Incomplete cases, due to incorrect addresses	66	37	24	23	1		151
Reported absent, had been sent home by school nurse	10	15	5		1		31
TOTAL	2914	2568	2074	1900	101	296	9853

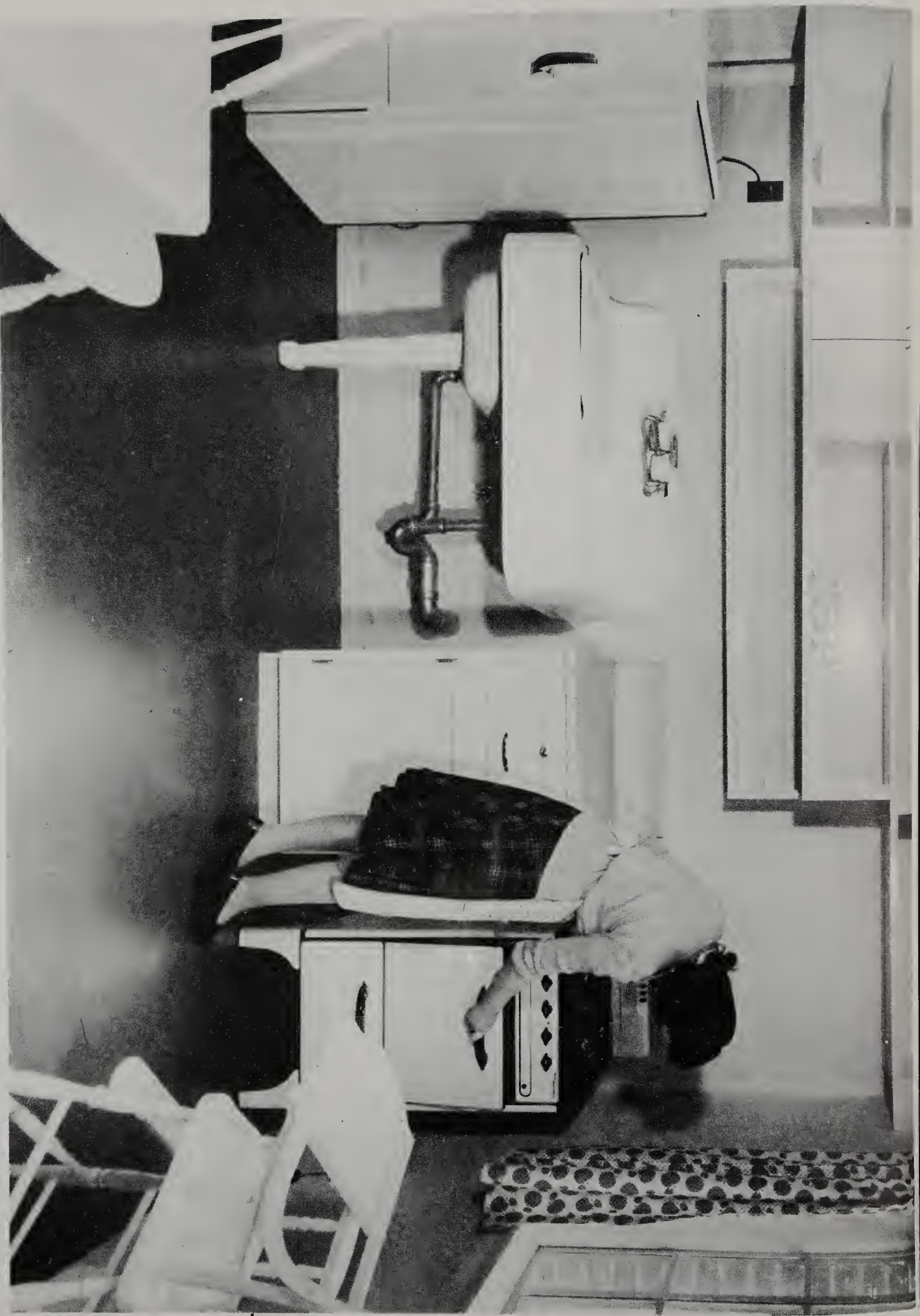
Breakdown Of Total Development Costs On Nelton Court, Dutch Point Colony

Item	Nelton Court 146 Units	Dutch Point Colony 222 Units
Administration	\$ 23,800	33,338
Carrying Charges	14,115	13,695
Architects, Engineers' fees	41,713	64,904
Acquisition of Site	30,151	28,495
Site Improvement roads, walks, landscaping etc.)	47,032	130,000
Structural Cost	454,378	709,000
Equipment (playground, ranges, refrigerators, etc.	20,876	31,860
Pre-Occupancy Charges	5,840	8,880
Contingencies	<u>30,387</u>	<u>49,583</u>
Total Development Cost	\$668,293	\$1,069,755

Dwelling facilities cost, including construction, planning fees, administration, carrying charges and contingencies, used to figure the USHA limitation of \$4,000 per dwelling unit, shows \$3,814 on Nelton Court and \$3,804 on Dutch Point Colony, or well within the maximum.

A HOME IN DUTCH POINT COLONY





This is one of the many homes built by the Hartford Housing Authority to rent for an average of \$22 monthly to families earning less than \$1700 a year and needing better housing. Rent includes the cost of heat, hot water, gas and electricity, and each kitchen comes completely equipped with gas stove, mechanical refrigerator, cabinets and work table.

Families may apply for a home like this at the Tenant Selection Office of the Hartford Housing Authority, 635 Main Street — Telephone 7-3149. This demonstration home is located on the corner of Stonington and Norwich Streets and will be open to the public on Sunday, January 26, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and every day thereafter from 1 to 5 p.m.



This living room has two casemate windows, cross ventilation, asphalt tile floor and walls of light buff tinted plaster. The building is of fire-proof construction and adequately insulated. Radiators in each room bring ample heat from a central plant.

The furnishings in this and other rooms have been provided for less than \$150 to demonstrate that these homes can be made attractive at no great expense. Much of the furniture was bought second hand and repaired or refinished.



These typical bed rooms each have outside exposure, cross ventilation, attractively finished walls and plenty of closet space. Every home in Nelton Court and Dutch Point Colony has a kitchen and living room, but the number of bed rooms varies. This is a 4½ room home with two bed rooms. Other dwellings are from 3 to 6½ rooms and have from 1 to 4 bed rooms. The number of persons in a family determines the size of the home it will occupy.

For full information about homes such as the one shown here, inquire at:

The Tenant Selection Office
Hartford Housing Authority
635 Main Street, Hartford
Telephone 7-3149

The Authority is grateful to Elizabeth Hammond and Alice Erickson, homemaking teachers, for furnishing this home, and to the many other individuals and agencies, particularly the prospective tenants in the Adult Education homemaking classes, who gave invaluable assistance.



Section 5

Analysis of Statistics

From a study of the preceding tables based on Juvenile Court Statistics it will be found that stealing and other acts of carelessness or mischief constitute the two major complaints entered in the court's record as far as the boys are concerned.

Acts of carelessness or mischief include such offenses as destruction of public or private property, malicious mischief, trespassing on railroad property, setting fires, gambling, throwing stones, discharging firearms, disturbing the peace, fighting, stealing rides or ringing false fire alarms.

The majority of girls who appear before Juvenile Court officials are grouped under three headings: Other stealing, ungovernable and sex offenses. These girls have more or less fixed behavior patterns since society is reluctant to refer these girls when the first sign of delinquency occurs. During 1932 there were 11 complaints of "ungovernable", 12 "sex offenses" and 19 cases of "Other Stealing" reported, while in 1940 there were 22 "sex cases" and 22 cases of "Other Stealing" reported.

Truancy back in 1932 was a more or less minor offense with only 26 cases reported to the Juvenile Court. In 1940, however, the number was increased to 84 showing that this offense is

very much on the increase. These cases represent the most habitual offenders.

The third largest group of complaints is for "Burglary" or "Unlawful Entry" with 56 in 1932 and 64 in 1940. These offences are committed by boys around fourteen and fifteen years of age.

During the year 1933-34 there were 193 neglected and uncared-for children reported for investigation while in 1940 there were 133 cases. The Court aims to keep children in their home and to keep the family together if possible, since nothing can take the place of parental love and affection but when all other means fail, then the filing of petitions is considered. Children are committed to public institutions only when they are found abandoned, deserted, abused or receiving cruel treatment, living under conditions injurious to their morals, or left uncared-for when their parents are committed to State institutions. Private agencies often assist in rehabilitating homes so that the children might remain with their parents.

It is unnecessary and would certainly be a great burden on our taxpayers if all delinquents were institutionalized. Probation, therefore, is the method by which a large number of these delinquents may be effectively supervised without endangering the safety of the community and with not too great an expense

to the taxpayers. By means of probation the Juvenile Court tends to establish new habits, and different attitudes toward society or individuals with whom the child comes in contact. This calls for a sympathetic understanding on the part of the Court and a knowledge of the resources which the community affords. During 1932-33, there were 184 cases supervised on probation while during the year 1939-40 there were 109 cases placed on probation and 88 of these children were adjusted while on probation.

Back in 1932-32 there were 64 children who ran away from home while in 1940 the number was reduced to 12. According to the Chief Probation Official, this reduction is the result of an enlarged leisure time activity program which provides many useful activities for children during their spare time.

The greatest number of calls made by the school attendance officers are in the eastern section of the city. While most of the absences from schools are for legitimate reasons such as illness, lack of suitable clothing, contagion in the home, nevertheless many other reasons such as truancy, staying out of school to work, doing errands for parents, employment contrary to law, kept home by parents, are illegitimate absences and must be discouraged. The attendance officers in the course of a year make between 8000 and 10,000 calls for various reasons so that the school law might be observed. The statistics

on pages 23-36 will give a detailed account of the type of cases handled by the school attendance officers.

Section 6

Reasons for its Prevalence in these Areas.

The areas mentioned in section three constitute the most congested sections of the city, where poverty stalks abroad. Many of the parents in these areas are delinquents and it is an old saying that "birds of a feather flock together." The most deficient children come from these sections and their hapless lot in life is more or less due to the fact that their parents lead improper lives and provide improper home conditions.

Children of low mentality are produced due to the prevalence of congenital diseases which are spread through the parents' habit of unclean living. Eighty-five per cent of the children brought to Juvenile Court are found to be suffering from congenital diseases.⁴

These areas are the so-called slum areas. Dark overcrowded buildings in areas where misdemeanors are difficult to find are the breeding places for delinquency.

Who can blame the boy or girl who through no fault of their own are forced into bad companionships through home conditions that are filthy and degrading. Ramshackle edifices dating from the reign of Andrew Jackson cluster together close to the sidewalk line of crowded streets.

4

Fox, Dr. M. D., Report of the Juvenile Court for the City of Hartford, Conn., 1939-40.

The children of their inhabitants may choose between playing in the roadway and playing on rickety wooden fire escapes. These shacks constitute serious fire traps separated only by small alleyways into which the sun seldom penetrates. Spotted maps have shown that nearly 60 percent of Juvenile Delinquency are from homes in the slum areas.⁵

The lack of church affiliation is another serious reason for delinquency in these sections. The people are decidedly out of touch with their religious leaders and churches and have been for a long period of time. Religious training seems to be unknown or is regarded as something that is outmoded. If religion was taught in the home and the parents and children became affiliated with some church, I am sure that it would do much to cut down delinquency where it exists.

Truancy, though not a grave offense in itself, is most prevalent in the slum sections and again the parents are to blame. They have relaxed their vigilance and lost control of their children. They have not taken the pains to find out the company that their children are keeping, the kind of reading material they consume, the movies they attend and the sort of habits they are forming. In addition they are making no attempt to become their children's companions and resort either to too lax or too severe treatment of their offspring.

5 Winalski, Stanley S., Juvenile Commission Report, Hartford Times, - Jan. 11, 1941.

It has been found that some of the boys from these areas have become delinquents because their fathers deserted them, girls have run away to be married because they could not endure their drunken fathers, while others stayed out late at night because there is never anyone at home and their abode lacks the comforts which other children enjoy.

The depression has had a most serious effect upon these children because it has forced their families on relief with its red tape and embarrassments which has had a tendency to lower their moral fibre below the usual level.

Most offenses committed in the slum areas of Hartford were during leisure time, after school and during vacations and few of these children have had any contact with any character building agency. This does not mean that there are no agencies operating in these sections but rather that these children failed to take advantage of the services they offered. This would seem to indicate a lack of wholesome, supervised activity during leisure time.

Many children have left school to go to work and while unemployed have drifted into delinquency. This may be due to the fact that they are untrained vocationally, have little to offer from an industrial standpoint, have tasted failure early and have become anti-social in their outlook.

Section 7

Suggested Remedies For Its Improvement

Since it has been found from a study of statistics already available that the greatest percentage of Juvenile Delinquency comes from the slum areas, it is necessary therefore that they be eliminated. Naturally there arises opposition to this plan because of the fact that the city loses important revenue from property that the Federal Government authorizes and finances. It has also been charged that this sort of situation brings about State Socialism. But political angles must be sacrificed when suffering humanity is at stake.

For many years social workers and civic-minded citizens have been in close contact with bad housing conditions in the city of Hartford. Much money has been spent to bring about more satisfactory conditions so that the health of the community might be improved and Juvenile Delinquency reduced. A great deal of money and effort has been wasted just as long as the slum area existed. In 1937 the Federal Housing Authority was created which provides for subsidizing families of low incomes and plans were set afoot to eliminate the slum area. Hartford's social and Civic leaders took a deep interest in this movement, forced it to become a reality and we have just had opened for inspection two public housing projects, Nelton Court in the Northeast end of the city, bounded by Nelson, Westland, Acton

and Main Streets and Dutch Point Colony on the east side bounded by Willys, Stonington and Norwich Streets with a third project, Bellevue Square, to be started shortly in the Negro section.

The Nelton Court development cost \$668,293 with 15 buildings and 13 row houses with 653 rooms which house 146 family units at \$4,645 per dwelling unit. This cost covers administration and overhead as well as actual construction expenses, the latter costing only \$3814 per dwelling unit or well below the \$4000 maximum allowed by law.

The Dutch Point Colony has 26 dwelling structures containing 222 living units and 986 rooms with the construction cost placed at \$1,069,755 and each unit at \$3804, well within the U S H A maximum.

Each Colony has a central heating plant, administration building and a small auditorium for the site occupants.

The people of Hartford have received these new constructions with a great deal of pleasure and are optimistic about their possibilities. The elimination of the slum areas and their replacements with modern buildings is bound to bring about healthier conditions, save the city money from fire losses, reduce delinquency and give children a better chance in life than they otherwise might have.

However, the fact that we transfer people from the slums to splendid living quarters is not enough in itself to bring about the conditions we desire. We must provide the opportunity for leisure-time activities for both children and parents. Because we have better living conditions for our low income group we must not relax our interest but rather we must face the fact that a crime committed by a child from this area might also involve one from another section. There is still a great deal of work to be done. We must give the right kind of guidance to the people in these new areas, have patience and understanding and not rest until every slum condition in Hartford is eliminated. Better housing is the first step away from slum clearance and its evil conditions. This must be followed by diligence on the part of all citizens to see to it that the disease and delinquency that ^{were} rampant in the old areas ^{are} is not carried on in the new. All inhabitants in the new areas must be healthy, physically and morally, so that shocking conditions will never again be tolerated.

This idea may appear a bit revolutionary but I believe that the City of Hartford should pass an ordinance making it mandatory for all children entering Kindergarten for the first time, to be given the Wasserman Test. We now compel all children to be vaccinated and I can see no reasonable objection to this suggestion. If we find that any children suffer from congenital

diseases, the proper precautions can be taken and if medical centers are set up in different sections of the city, treatment can be given at an early age thereby giving every child an even chance. If this is done faithfully, Juvenile Delinquency can be reduced in later years, thus saving the children affected from the ravages of these terrible social diseases. In our present set-up the healthy and well kept children are constantly being exposed to contagion from the many children who are afflicted with syphilis and other diseases.

If there are so many good young men in the world, why is it that we have so many bad old men? This is no doubt due to a lack of proper home training. Parents cannot turn over their children to strangers to be trained and expect that they are going to grow up with the proper habits and attitudes.

I have a great many children in my two school buildings whose parents both work. This constitutes a most serious situation. Many things happen to these children and the school is severely handicapped because its good work is nullified by the lack of control over these children outside of school. When parents realize that the mother's place is in the home and that she needs to be there to supervise her child when he arrives home from school, the more effective will be the tie-up between the school and the home. If the right supervision is exercised

over the children many of the bad habits which are now being formed and bid fair to develop into Juvenile Delinquency, will be controlled or eliminated.

A great service would be rendered today if children were again taught to know and understand the Ten Commandments. They are just as important today as when they were first handed down to us and the sooner we return to an appreciation of them the better our children are going to be because they will have more respect for the rights of others. Today we hear of a great many people advocating the teaching of religion during school hours. This plan is now being tried out in many places with evidence of success. If all children were excused from school to attend the church of their choice, a great deal of good would come from the training they would receive and the associations they would form. I believe this is a coming thing and in the next few years I expect that it is going to be put into operation in a great many more places.

It has often been said that children must be trained from the cradle. Certainly we people in school work have a golden opportunity to mold these children under our tutelage into the right kind of citizens. We must of course have the right kind of cooperation from the home in order to make our work effective. I am a great believer in character education and believe

that it should be emphasized from the Kindergarten through the University. In our schools we are stressing this important phase of our childrens' development.

If our teachers are to render helpful service they must be trained to understand how people in the slums live. The money the father makes, what the children have to eat, the relationships of all members of the family and other facts about the family must be known in order to appreciate the handicaps under which many of the children are forced to live. I would advocate as part of their training in Teachers' Colleges and Liberal Arts Schools that they be compelled to go into the poorer neighborhoods and gather all of the material that they can about these people so that they as teachers will have a more sincere appreciation of the type of children with whom they are going to work. A greater knowledge of the family conditions of the less fortunate group will place the teachers in the position of preventing many of the more serious acts that are being committed by so many of the young people. When they know why children are forced to come to school without the necessities of life they will adopt a more sympathetic attitude toward their pupils.

The classroom teacher should be on the alert to recognize early signs of delinquent tendencies as presented by the retarded

child, the truant , the restless child, the shy child, the over-sensitive child, the child who lies, cheats or steals. There is a definite relationship between retardation and delinquency. This has been confirmed in studies by the Gluecks⁶ on Juvenile Delinquency. The boys studied as truants were more retarded than the general school population. Group misfits are easily recognized in the school. Often such children have emotional difficulties which require attention if their school experience is to be a normal one. Ability to get along in a group is essential in school and afterwards. A well trained teacher will become familiar with the facts, handle the problems that come before her more diplomatically and intelligently and render greater service to the individuals under her care as well as to the community she serves.

Preventive work can be done in the case of the maladjusted or handicapped child while his tendencies are still easily susceptible of proper direction and control. Here we must call in the mental clinic, bureau of guidance, visiting teacher or any other department that might be of assistance in bringing about a more happy adjustment in the child's life. Participation in the Boy or Girl Scouts Activities might provide the means of enabling the boy or girl to develop more

⁶ Sheldon and Eleanor Glueck, Preventing Crime, McGraw-Hill Company, New York.

self-confidence and a desire to engage in group activities with children of their own age levels.

As a result of all these efforts a great amount of possible delinquency will be averted at its source.

Section 8

What the School Department is Doing About It.

We who live and work in Hartford are rather proud of the fine work that our schools are doing with the youth of our city and no little share of credit is due to the work of the Visiting Teacher Department. This Department has one Supervisor and five Teachers ^{in addition to} ~~along with~~ a Psychiatrist. These teachers are the psychiatric social workers in the school system working with children who may be having some emotional or educational problem.

All schools are faced with the situation of having retarded children in the low grades who are considerably overaged. This presents as a rule an unfortunate predicament because if the overaged boy is mentally handicapped he might become a disciplinary problem and in addition become a menace to the other children. This type of child is usually easily led and becomes the prey of older and more crafty youngsters.

As a part of the Educational system we have the Hartley-Salmon Clinic to which cases requiring extended psychiatric treatment are referred. Pupils requiring particular help in reading and in correction of speech defects are also referred to this clinic.

In some cities the visiting teacher is a person who visits the

sick children and especially those who are housed in for an extended period of time. In Hartford we have regular teachers who attend to this type of work leaving the Visiting Teachers to do the social case work. Cases are referred by the School Principals or Social Agencies to the Visiting Teacher Department for disposition. All the known facts about a pupil are given in a personal interview. The Visiting Teacher immediately contacts the pupil's home and secures as much information from the parents as they care to give. This information includes facts about early childhood, diseases contracted, health deficiencies, play habits, types of food eaten, sleeping habits, attitude toward parents and other members of the family. Suggestions are made by the Visiting Teacher to the Regular Teacher with the idea of securing cooperation that will result in benefits to the pupil involved. When there is little or no response from the pupil he is referred to the Hartley-Salmon Clinic for extended psychiatric treatment with the approval of the child's parents.

During the school years from 1934-1939 there were 1510 children referred to the Visiting Teacher Department, representing every school in the Hartford system.

A Visiting Teacher is assigned to a school where there are sufficient cases to warrant a half-day or full day of service.

Fifteen Elementary and Junior High Schools and one Senior High School are assigned scheduled service. One Senior High School has a full time Visiting Teacher assigned. Five other schools call during the year when an emergency arises.

When children pilfer articles, enter vacant houses, and fall into mischief during idle hours, visiting teachers often in cooperation with recreational agencies have centers set-up in the schools, utilizing the school equipment. Many of these centers are now in operation in conjunction with the Hartford Recreational organization. Thus a great number of children are taken off the streets and placed under proper supervision in these centers thereby removing the possibility of having these children become Juvenile Delinquents.

As a Visiting Teacher works with the Teachers and Principals on a case involving personality difficulties she brings out the conflicts and environmental factors which cause the behavior problem. Not only does the boy benefit as a rule from this service but even his regular teacher has a better understanding of mental hygiene and an appreciation of the child's difficulty.

Some children and parents feel more free to furnish private information to a Visiting Teacher than to a Regular Teacher in school. As a result of this confidence the Visiting Teacher

is often able to bring about results of a satisfactory nature which the Regular Teacher might not be able to accomplish.

The Visiting Teachers are doing effective work in our schools and they are greatly augmenting the work of the regular schools, being instrumental in numerous cases in preventing Juvenile Delinquency by getting the children into worth-while leisure time activities.

In passing, it is interesting to note that Visiting Teacher work was started in Hartford. Thirty years ago, a group of forward-looking people saw the need of this kind of work, and through the active interest of a psychologist at the Hartford Theological Seminary the work was started at the Henry Barnard School.

The attendance department has become a very important feature of the educational program. It is now looked upon as more than mere police work. Its members are well trained to assume social service work as part of their assignment and a great deal of constructive work is done by the members of the staff. Through their follow-up work they have been instrumental in bringing about some splendid adjustments through the co-operation they have received from the school principals. They try to avoid giving a boy a record and do not turn him over to the Juvenile Court unless they are sure there is no other solution

to the problem.

Opportunity rooms operate in many of the schools with most satisfactory results. Over-age children who have difficulties with the fundamentals and who are decidedly below grade levels for their ages are given individual attention in small classes. Handicrafts and Industrial Arts form a part of their program and the teachers who are specially trained are in a position to get closer to their children, find out their interests and do a great deal to make happier adjustments and help the children to feel that they are not out of step with society. Many children are being reclaimed annually in these classes and they have done much to prevent children from falling into ways of delinquency.

The school is one of the strongest links in a co-ordinated effort for crime prevention. This implies leadership in the provision of wholesome recreational activities, in the organization of groups for parent education and in the stimulation of neighborhood child welfare councils.

Section 9

What the Juvenile Court is Doing.

The Juvenile Court, whose work has been particularly valuable and which in former years has been a more or less independent organization, has now become related to all the other devices for child welfare and development. Its chief work has been to prevent further delinquency in the community by bringing about happy readjustments as is possible in the lives of as many of the children that come before it. It has regarded each of the children brought to its attention as a future citizen and has made every attempt to help them at the most critical period of their lives. It has aided them to develop their personalities and to establish proper social relationships. It has substituted guidance for penalties and has not treated or regarded them as criminals. Retributive justice has been steadily forced into the background, and in its place new and scientific methods of correction and protection are being developed, to the end "that the care, custody and discipline of the children brought before it shall approximate as nearly as possible that which they should receive from their own parents."

7

The Hartford Juvenile Court's probation system has made it possible to correct and adjust many delinquents in their own homes under the efficient supervision of the court without

7 New York State Children's Court Act - 1934.

commitment to institutions. This has been perhaps one of its greatest steps forward in the treatment of delinquency.

When strict disciplinary methods are needed, the children are placed in the detention home which is located in the upper part of the Court building at 322 Washington Street, Hartford.

Great emphasis is placed on the need of treating every case of delinquency as an individual problem. Each case receives the same study that a physician gives to one of his patients. The child's mental life is diagnosed by the Court's psychiatrist. The Chief Probation Officer, Dr. Michael D. Fox, probes deeply into the causes for the child's anti-social tendencies, his environment, characteristics, his general history, companionships, his social and economic status and recommends some constructive plan for dealing with him according to his individual needs.

Delinquency complaints are brought to the attention of the Hartford Juvenile Court in the majority of cases by the police who make out a report and refer it to the Chief Probation Officer, who then files a petition. Parents and School Attendance Officers also refer delinquents to the attention of the Court while a number of cases are referred through social agencies.

In the cases of neglected, uncared for and dependent children, the majority of petitions are filed by the Superintendent of the Department of Public Welfare or the General Manager of the Connecticut Humane Society. Some cases are brought to the attention of the court when parents have been arrested and sent to jail or when other emergencies have sprung up in the home. The Chief Probation Officer files cases of this type.

It has been the custom of the Court, whenever possible to keep the children in their own homes. Here private agencies co-operate by giving relief, understanding, sympathy and advice and have greatly aided in keeping homes together.

When a child is referred to the court, a thorough physical examination is given and any defects noted are immediately referred to the Department of Public Welfare. Medical attention and hospitalization is provided and even delicate surgical operations are performed if found necessary. Short legs have been straightened as well as eyes, and many other corrections have been made. Children must undergo the Wasserman test and treatment for syphilis and gonorrhea is given. If any children are placed on probation, they must affiliate themselves with some church of their choice as part of the probation. Children are on either daily or weekly probation. A Probation Officer visits the home either weekly or semi-monthly in order

to determine what the home is doing to keep the child on the straight and narrow path. Pre-leaving certificates are secured for boys and girls who are not getting along in school and the Court has even obtained jobs for many of its delinquents.

When a complaint is brought to the attention of the Chief Probation Officer, it is referred to one of the Assistant Probation Officers for investigation. Every case is completely investigated before any disposition is made. A complete investigation consists of a social investigation, physical examination, psychological examination and whenever necessary a psychiatric examination.

Since the home environment plays a very important part in the shaping of a child's character it is important that the Court know something of the set-up of the home. This includes a knowledge of the family ties, the intimate relationships between the child and the members of his family as well as other factors that have a distinct bearing on him, such as the church, school, leisure time occupations and companionships.

Social investigations are made under the following headings:

- I. Complainant's Statement.
- II. Child's Statement.
- III. Child's Habits, History, Reputation and Previous Record.

A. History.

1. Early Infancy.
2. Physical Development.
 - a. Dentition.
 - b. Walking.
 - c. Talking.
 - d. Age of Puberty or Maturity.
 - e. Accidents and Illnesses.
 - f. Physical Conditions and Appearance.

B. Habits.

1. Sex Habits and Experiences.
2. Stimulants.
3. Smoking.

C. Mental Status.

1. Psychologist's Report.
2. Psychiatrist's Report.

D. Reputation and Personality.

E. Previous Record.

F. Social Reactions.

1. Child's Attitude toward members of Family.
2. Families' Attitude toward Child.
3. Outside Contacts.
 - a. Playmates.
 - b. Games.
 - c. Use of Leisure.

IV. Habits and Character of Parents.

A. Father.

B. Mother.

C. Step-parents.

D. Guardians or Foster Parents.

E. Siblings.

V. Home and Neighborhood.

A. Home.

B. Neighborhood.

VI. School.

(Grade, Marks, Progress, Attitude and Teacher's Opinion.)

VII. Church.

VIII. Interested Agencies.

IX. General Remarks.

Every child appearing before the Court is given an individual psychological examination. Trained psychologists from the Division of Special Education and Standards of the State Board of Education have given these examinations free of charge. From these examinations a great deal has been learned of the child's behavior and personality traits, as well as his ability to meet new situations and make adjustments within his own sphere. The results enable the Court to determine the child's academic abilities and to make recommendations in regard to

his school adjustments.

The psychiatrist has been of inestimable value in discovering causes for distorted reactions and emotional attitudes and in making personality adjustments and helping to restore normal attitudes and viewpoints.

Many cases are so trivial that they are referred to the Chief Probation Officer for unofficial disposition. These cases are usually settled with a reprimand. The cases are placed in a private file and the record is accessible to no one. The reason for this is to prevent these individuals from getting a court record. There are many such dispositions in the course of each year.

Hearings before the Court are private: only the child and his parents appear before the Chief Probation Officer, Deputy Chief Probation Officer and the Judge. The Judge has been given previously a complete report on the case along with the recommendation of the Chief Probation Officer. The Judge handles all cases with sympathy and understanding and no case is disposed of without the presence of at least one parent or guardian.

If the case involves dependency, the children are excluded from the Court while a discussion is held on any sordid de-

tails that might be connected with the case.

The Court has been instrumental in securing the services of socially-minded men and women who have become a part of the Big-Brother - Big-Sister Movement that has rendered splendid service in helping these unfortunate children with their problems. They have usually been fathers and mothers who have been successful in raising families of their own in decency and order.

I feel that our Juvenile Court is one of the best organized and operated Courts in the country. I have contacted the Court on a number of occasions and it is very comforting to me to see the humane and intelligent manner in which the Court functions. All of its employees are most sympathetic and understanding and they are rendering the City of Hartford an invaluable service.

The Chief Probation Officer, Dr. Michael D. Fox, was for fifteen years a District Superintendent and Principal in the Hartford School System. He has a thorough knowledge of the frailties of children, is most humane in his treatment and does not believe in sending children to correctional institutions except as a last resort. Hartford is indeed fortunate in having such a splendidly trained Chief Probation Officer to preside over the destinies of its delinquent young children.

Section 10

Summary And Conclusions.

I have attempted in this paper to give a true picture of the Juvenile Delinquency situation as it exists in Hartford. I have not attempted in any way to whitewash the true facts but have tried to present the problem as it has been unfolded.

We have much to be thankful for in Hartford but there are some things for which criticism might be justly leveled at us. We have over a long period of time failed to meet the true situation as it existed by permitting filthy slum areas to exist in our city. But thanks to our present Local and National Administrations we have taken the first step forward by eliminating these slum sections, and the new developments which have just been completed will be open within a short time.

We must follow up this good work by doing all in our power as good citizens to prevent a repetition of the dangers in the new sections that were responsible for so many ills in the old slum areas. We must see to it that all the inhabitants in the new community are healthy, both physically and morally, so that they will not prove a menace to the city. Children will be placed in good quarters which ought to be conducive to good living and we must educate the parents to know and understand their children and at all times set a good example to them.

If we do that Hartford will be an even greater city than at present and all its citizens will live healthier and happier lives.

What I have given from a Hartford angle might just as well come from any other city in the United States. I have viewed the situation from the Capital city of Connecticut but you might change the name to that of any other city and the facts would remain the same.

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Approved

Charles J. Rohr

L. J. Welles

Date

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